THE FINANCE MINISTER (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

More Repayment to IMF by India

1164. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY; SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Telegraph, Calcutta of 20th February, 1990 to the effect that India is repaying more to IMF; and

(b) if so, what is Government reaction thereto?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount of loan taken from IMF is fixed in terms of SDRs and as is the practice with loans designated in foreign currencies SDR, the same amount has to be repaid in foreign currency SDR. If the value of foreign currency SDR rises in terms of rupees, it is to be expected that repayment will be more in rupee terms.

Utilisation of Services of Basata to Boost Exports to EEC Countries

1165. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of COM MERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British and South Asian Trade Association has offered its services to the Indian businessmen for increasing exports to the ECE countries;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to utilise the services of BASATA to boost exports to EEC countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c) No specific offer has been made by BASATA to Indian businessmen for increasing exports to EEC countries. However, mee. tings were held in the month of January, 1990 with some members of a visiting delegation from BASATA, which has a Memorandum of Understanding with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The issues that were discussed at these meetings, *inter-alia,* included the question of expansion of bilateral trade, as well as trade with third countries. In very general terms, the support of the British organisation was reiterated in this regard.

Utilisation of Foreign Exchange by the Leading Trade Promotion Bodies

1166 SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that trade promotion and market re search activities undertaken by several leading trade promotion bodies suffer from serious overlapping efforts re sulting in ineffective utilisation of fo reign exchange;

(b) if so, what are the areas of overlapping functions undertaken by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Trade Development Authority and Trade Fair Authority and Export Promotion Councils during the last two years; and

(c) whether Government are con-templating to merge some of these bodies into a single trade promotion body and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU); (a) and (b) The Trade promotion and market research acti-ties carried out by the various trade promotion bodies are finalised by the Ministry to avoid overlaps. The Annual programme of action for the